

**UINTAH BASIN
ADAPTIVE RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PLAN
(UBARM)**

LOCAL WORKING
GROUP FOR THE
GREATER SAGE-
GROUSE

Planning/update
meeting

Date: Thursday, March 3, 2005

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Place: State & County Building, South Conference
Room**

Members Present:

1. David Allison – Consultant (Uintah County/UBAOG)
2. Stephanie Tomkinson – Questar Exploration & Production Co
3. Scott Chew – Rancher, Landowner
4. Boyd Kitchen, USU Extension
5. Brian Maxfield – UDWR
6. Debra Domenici – Kerr McGee
7. Dixie Sadlier – BLM VFO
8. Jim Brown – NRCS
9. Darlene Burns – Uintah County
10. Sherel Goodrich – USDA Forest Service
11. Darrell Gillman – UACD

Information Presented

- Presentation by Steve Brayton - UDWR
- Scott Chew – Sage Grouse Summit
- Brian Maxfield – Lek Counts & Translocation

Discussion Highlights

Steve Brayton, UDWR, made the group aware of a new sub-committee, the Uintah Basin Private-Public Projects Group under the Uintah Basin Conservation and Development Group. This subcommittee identifies habitat enhancement projects. Steve wants us to let them know of any projects that we think should be done. He will also keep us informed on projects that relate to sage grouse habitat enhancement at least 3 times per year. The group discussed several of the projects currently underway or soon to be underway.

Scott Chew discussed the Western Governors Association - Sage Grouse Summit that was held in Reno, NV on February 11th and 12th, 2005. There were over 60 sage grouse groups represented from 11 states. He did not see any Utah BLM people there. Some of the key points emphasized:

- ✱ It does not do anyone any good to have the sage grouse become listed as endangered. Once this happens we all

loose are flexibility to fix the problem.

- ✿ All groups need to do a better job of letting the public know what we are doing. Some have started advertising their meetings in the local newspaper.
- ✿ Rewards should be given to private landowners for participating in projects.
- ✿ Power poles above leks provide perches for Golden Eagles.
- ✿ A presentation on hunting and predation was given by J. Conley.
- ✿ Decisions must be based on science, not politics.
- ✿ Will West Nile Virus have an affect on populations?
- ✿ Keep a close watch on invasive weeds and Pinyon-Juniper encroachment.
- ✿ Make sure monitoring fits with our objectives.
- ✿ It is very important to keep ranchers and livestock happy and healthy, they are our partners.
- ✿ Make sure any data we use is credible.
- ✿ The plan is important but getting the projects on the ground should remain high priority.
- ✿ Do not loose common sense!!

Those were just some of the topics discussed in the 2 day summit. Over 350 people attended this summit, that is 200 more than last year.

General group discussion regarding current projects:

We need to consider press releases. The Diamond Mtn. Landowners need to be kept informed of our projects.

If the translocation project gets approval from the Board, we may be asked to help with capture and release.

Brian has started lek counts on the East Bench. The rest of the counts will start in mid March. The last week of April or the first week of May is when peak counts are usually obtained. If anyone would like to help with lek counts, please contact Brian Maxfield.

Brian mentioned the DWR will be helping Wildlife Services with Raven control this year.

Next meeting

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2005

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Place: State & County Building on Main Street in Vernal,
UT, South Conference Room**

Follow-up Needed

In our next meeting:

Brian Maxfield will provide results of the lek counts.

Brian will also provide Todd with a GIS map showing sage brush die off in our area and current hunting data showing number of permits and subunits available to hunting.

We will continue our sage grouse management plan discussion.